


June 3, 1987

TO: File

FROM: Frank J. Filas, Reclamation Engineer 

RE: Site Inspection, Hillside-Gizmo-Bears Ears, M/037/015

On May 18, 1987, Frank Filas and Bill Almas of Energy Fuels Nuclear (EFN) inspected the three small mines referenced above. The mines are located approximately seven miles up Fry Canyon and just off the county road. The mines are old, prelaw workings that were reopened in 1978 by EFN. They are covered under one permit and a \$25,000 reclamation bond.

The mines have been inactive since November, 1980. They are located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, and the claims are owned by Monticello Minerals and Mining Company (MMM). EFN does not intend to reopen these mines, and would like to either reclaim the sites or transfer the reclamation liability to MMM. The Division would prefer that these mines be completely reclaimed since they have been inactive for more than six years, and it does not appear that they will be reopened in the near future. It is very possible that MMM may not be agreeable to complete reclamation at this time. If this is the case, it is recommended that the Division work with EFN and MMM to resolve the problem. A possible solution may be for EFN to reclaim the majority of the sites and MMM to assume the remainder of the liability under a small mining permit that does not require bonding.

A short description of each mine and reclamation recommendations are as follows:

Hillside

The Hillside Mine is the largest of the three mines and is visible from the county road below. There is a gate at the entrance of the approximately 800-foot long access road. The mine is located atop a steep slope, and the mine waste has been dumped down this slope. The side of the waste dump has been eroded by runoff in several areas. A pad area, which is approximately 800-feet long by 40-feet wide, has been created on top of the waste dump. The portal is secured with a locked gate.

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Reclamation of the site would require that the portal be sealed by backfilling or blasting. It appears impractical, however, to reclaim the steep sides of the waste pile. It is recommended that the pad and road be contoured so as to minimize erosion, and that they be scarified and seeded.

Bears Ears

The Bears Ears Mine is reached by a half-mile access road that runs directly above the Hillside portal. There is an abandoned ore car and old vent tubing along this road. The portal has been partially backfilled. The narrow pad is overgrown with rabbitbrush, and it has a berm of waste material along its outer edge. Only a small amount of waste material has been dumped down the side of the steep hill.

It is recommended that the portal be completely sealed, and that the revegetated pad area be disturbed as little as possible in doing this work. The road should be scarified and seeded in those areas that have not naturally revegetated. Recontouring or water bars may be appropriate in several areas of the road.

Gizmo

The Gizmo site has a 1600-foot long access road and a pad-waste pile of approximately one acre. There is some piping located on the road close to the pad area. In addition, the natural drainage eroded one side of the waste dump leaving behind a collection of old junk and trash. The drainage has been channeled and the erosion has been curtailed by the placement of several large rocks against the side of the waste dump. The portal is blasted shut, and portions of the pad area have good vegetation coming in. There is a metal shed (35' x 25' with dirt floor) and two wooden stands for fuel tanks onsite also.

It is recommended that the exposed trash in the drainage, the metal shed, wooden stands, etc., be removed or buried onsite. The drainage channel along the pad area should be further protected by the placement of additional large rocks in several areas. Particular care should be taken to not disturb those areas that already show good vegetative growth. The road should be scarified and seeded in those areas that do not have good volunteer vegetative growth. The piping problem should be eliminated by recontouring or other measures.

clj
cc: L. Braxton
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